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June 2, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Affordable Small Home Sustainability Initiative, Brooklyn, NY 11205 (NY08) in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Pratt Center for Community Development located at 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205.

The funding would be used to preserve affordable housing for 600 residents through the delivery of a “whole homes” combination package of energy retrofits, health and safety measures and home repairs to 75 2-family homes in low-income areas in the Bedford Stuyvesant, Cypress Hills and Crown Heights sections of Brooklyn. Small homes are an important source of affordable housing, but the existing stock is deteriorating. Maintaining the affordability and sustainability of this housing stock is critical to New York City’s ability to provide housing to low- and moderate-income residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, and to achieving its environmental goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, this housing stock is at risk as it ages, and the owners lack the financial resources to make repairs. The challenges include rising energy costs; invisible threats to health and safety such as lead paint, mold and asbestos; and the need for ongoing repairs. The funding requested will be used to close financial gaps and leverage significant state funds for implementation and to develop a streamlined application process for implementing retrofits and repairs in small homes.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Hakeem Jeffries

Member of Congress